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EPIDEMIOLOGY

No. 201



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3 October 1980

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GHANA

BRIEFS

CALL FOR ACCRA SPRAYING--A Ghanaian entomologist has called for the mass aerial spraying of insanitary places in the towns and cities as an effective measure to combat the possible outbreak of epidemic. The entomologist, Mr H.A. Mould, noted that health hazards in Accra for the past years had grown from bad to worse due to uncleared rubbish heaps and filthy gutters and that unless immediate remedial action was taken, the health of the people would continue to deteriorate. He said the increase in number of flies, mosquitoes and rats, as carriers of disease, coupled with the offensive stench from the gutters of Accra, must be a signal to prompt the Accra City Council and the Government to seek alternative sources to save the lives of the citizens from the possible outbreak of an epidemic. He said the need for environmental and ground spraying had become necessary because of the unavailability of trucks and refuse clearing equipment in the country's regional capitals. On the application of weedicides on farms, Mr Mould contended that the use of insecticides "do not pose any hazards to crops even after harvesting," adding that it all depended on right dosage, application and the personnel who undertake the whole project. [Excerpts] [Accra GHANAIAN TIMES in English 30 Aug 80 p 3]

CSO: 5400

HONDURAS

BRIEFS

MALARIA IN COLON--Balfate, Colon--Mr Tito Boys, who had just come from Balfate, has informed this newsman that 90 percent of the population of that city is suffering from malaria. Mr Boys said that the Ministry of Public Health has done nothing to eradicate the disease although there has been frequent talk about a fumigation campaign at the national level for the purpose of getting rid of the transmitting mosquito. Boys said that the disease has exceeded all bounds and now has prostrated the entire community. [Text] [San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 14 Jul 80 p 9] 9204

VACCINATION CAMPAIGN IN SANGRELAYA--Sangrelaya, Iriona--A medical team from the Salvador Paredes Hospital of Trujillo headed by Dr Donaldo Amaya is now in this area carrying out a third vaccination campaign against polio, measles, diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus. In the first stage of this trip they will visit the towns of Sangrelaya, Tocamancho, Cocalito, San Jose de la Punta, Iriona Viejo, Ciriboya, Cusuma and Punta Piedra. Later they will visit the inhabitants of the chief town of the municipality of Limon and Santa Clara de Aguan, ending the trip in Quinto, Plan Grande, Guadalupe, San Antonio, Coroza Alta and Santa Fe. Members of the team stated that although it is necessary to carry out another vaccination campaign this year it will be impossible to do so in view of the very bad conditions of the roads in this section of the country. [Text] [San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 5 Aug 80 p 30] 9204

CSO: 5400

HUNGARY

BRIEFS

GASTROENTERITIS SUBSIDING--"The number of people who have fallen ill from polluted drinking water is estimated at approximately 1,000 in Nagykanizsa. Up to now, 280 patients have required hospital treatment, but their number is becoming less and less. In the last few days, 116 have been discharged as cured. Also the number of people on sick pay has decreased." In view of the imminent beginning of the school year, public health organs have initiated the screening of the approximately 1,500 people employed at schools, kindergartens and day nurseries. /Text/
/Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 27 Aug 80 p 8 AU/

CSO: 5400

BRIEFS

JAUNDICE DEATH STATISTICS--The number of deaths due to jaundice rose from 1,350 in 1977 to 1,799 in 1978 and to 2,083 in 1979, reports UNI. The number of cases reported from different parts of the country during these years were 149,339 in 1977, 132,899 in 1978 and 157,113 in 1979, Minister of Health N. R. Laskar told the Lok Sabha on Thursday. Maharashtra tops the list with the 894 deaths and 40,465 seizures in 1979. The respective figures for 1978 and 1977 were 852 and 17312 and 398 and 3983. Madhya Pradesh reported 268 deaths and 33,758 cases, Karnataka 245 deaths and 18268 cases and Uttar Pradesh 238 deaths and 3267 cases during 1979. The maximum number of 27 deaths and 2078 cases were reported from Delhi among the Union Territories in 1979, followed by Mizoram (20 deaths and 2046 cases). [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 11 Jul 80 p 5]

MYSTERY DISEASE DEATHS--Tirunelveli, July 11. A strange disease has claimed the lives of seven children at Moolachel and Paracodu hamlets in Tuckalay Panchayat Union in Kanyakumari district. Fourteen cases were reported, according to a spokesman of the Public Health Department. Most of the affected children were below five. The children were treated in the Mission Hospital at Neyoor and in private clinics. One case was treated at the Government Hospital at Tuckalay. Tests conducted at Neyoor Hospital have ruled out the possibility of the viral encephalitis, commonly known as brain fever as the cause of infection. The affected children suffered from fever and convulsions, but the mosquitoes from the affected areas carried no malarial protozom. No fresh cases have been reported since July 3. The necessary health measures, including mass spraying, have been undertaken. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 12 Jul 80 p 7]

PATNA CHOLERA OUTBREAK--Patna, July 13--Cholera has broken out in the city area and has claimed five lives so far, according to the Deputy Director (Health), Mr D. P. Banerjee, reports UNI. Three persons died of cholera in the area and two others succumbed to the disease after being admitted to the Nalanda Medical College Hospital. With the admission of four more cases to the hospital, the number of acute cholera patients has risen to 87 since July 8. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 14 Jul 80 p 9]

MYSTERIOUS VIRUS INFECTION--New Delhi, 13 Sep (AFP)--At least forty persons have died during the last two weeks due to a mysterious viral infection raging in parts of Tarai and Rihirkhand regions in the north Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, according to official reports here today. Over 20,000 persons have been affected by this virus with symptoms of chill and high fever. Medical aid had been rushed to the stricken areas to treat the affected persons and to contain the virus from spreading. [Text] [Hong Kong AFP in English 1510 GMT 13 Sep 80 BK]

CSO: 5400

BRIEFS

LUANG PRABANG MALARIA WORK--In mid-June a disease prevention team of the department of Public Health of Luang Prabang Province went out to check and care for people's health in various production areas in Meuang Khai Canton [Meuang] Nan District so that they would be at full strength for production. In this period they gave shots for cholera and distributed medicine for malaria to people throughout the area. They cared for a number of people who were sick and examined their blood for malaria parasites. They offered information on methods of preventing various diseases especially diseases occurring during the rainy season. And they told many people about the "three-clean" health principle. This work reduced the number of sick in this locality and created favorable conditions for agriculture and the other production of the masses. [Text] [Vientiane KHAOSAN PATHET LAO in Lao 15 Jul 80 p A2] 8149

CSO: 5400

MOZAMBIQUE

BRIEFS

VACCINATION STATISTICS--Despite the lack of transportation, the health services of the Erti district hope that vaccination goals will be exceeded this year. More than 2,000 persons were vaccinated in the "Samora Machel" communal village and surrounding area. Of these, 900 were children who were vaccinated against measles, tuberculosis, tetanus and whooping cough. A total of 1,246 adults were vaccinated against tetanus and the number of vaccinations in the entire district amounts to 7,000. (Excerpts) (Beira NOTICIAS DA BEIRA in Portuguese 2 Sep 80 p 2)

C801 5400

BRIEFS

GASTROENTERITIS CASES--The disease from which people in Nepal suffer most is identified to be gastroenteritis. The disease is most widespread in Kathmandu district of all the 75 districts in the country. According to the epidemiological bulletin published here by the department of health services, 10,801 people who suffered from gastroenteritis were admitted to 12 different hospitals of the country last year and of these patients 9,284 were in Kathmandu district. Eighteen people died of the disease last year in the country, it is stated in the bulletin. According to an official concerned of the department of health services, gastroenteritis kills most people in Kathmandu because of the accumulating filth and unwholesome food which people eat at eating houses in Kathmandu.--RSS [Text] [Kathmandu THE MOTHERLAND in English 6 Sep 80 p 2]

ENCEPHALITIS DEATHS--Biratnagar, Sept 9--Patients brought here for treatment of encephalitis has reached 30, it is learnt from the hospital, reports RSS. Of those admitted to the hospital with the brain fever four have already died while 14 have been cured and discharged. The remaining patients are currently undergoing treatment, it is also learnt. [Text] [Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 10 Sep 80 p 3]

TWO MILLION VACCINATIONS--Kathmandu, Sept 8--Under the T.B. control project in the preventive health care services programme, out of the target of providing BCG vaccination to all children under the age of fifteen, 2.1 million children were vaccinated by the end of the fiscal year 1978-79, reports RSS. During the first nine months of the fiscal year 1979-80 additional 336 thousand children have received BCG vaccination. Necessary medicines have also been provided to the T.B. patients under the project. According to the economic survey 1979-80, under the leprosy control programme by April 1980, 1.7 million people from 28 districts have been surveyed and curative treatment has been provided to leprosy patients. The target of the malaria eradication programme for the Fifth Plan was to reduce the Annual Parasite Index (API) to 1.0 from 1.1 per thousand population by applying the existing methods of treatment such as insecticides spraying, examination of blood sample and treatment of the malaria patients. Out of the 949 thousand blood samples examined, only 8 thousand malaria cases were found during the first nine months of the last fiscal year. [Text] [Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 9 Sep 80 p 3]

NIGERIA

BRIEFS

CHOLERA OUTBREAK IN GONGOLA--An outbreak of cholera has been reported in some parts of Gongola state. The state commissioner for health confirmed yesterday that the outbreak occurred in the (Litika) local government area. He disclosed that the disease had so far claimed eight lives. The commissioner also said that two teams of health officials have been drafted to the area to combat the spread of the disease.
(Text) (AB111713 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 10 Sep 80)

CSO: S400

BRIEFS

FOUR CHOLERA DEATHS--Parsur, Aug 31--Cholera has claimed four lives in Saadansuli and Saitkay Sabalpur villages. The people of the affected areas have appealed to the Health authorities to take immediate preventive measures failing which the epidemic was likely to take a heavy toll on life. [Text] [Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 4 Sep 80 p 6]

FATHER, DAUGHTER DIE OF CHOLERA--Muzirabad, Sep 3--A father and daughter of Bainka Cheema have been laid to rest at the same time. They died within minutes of each other, first known victims of cholera. Young Khalida was the first to go last night. Father Mohammad Shafi Ansari followed her. The people of the area have called upon the authorities to take immediate precautionary steps against the epidemic. [Text] [Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 4 Sep 80 p 6]

VACCINATIONS AGAINST GASTROENTERITIS--Abbottabad, Sep 7--As many as 40,225 persons have been so far vaccinated during an intensive drive against gastro-enteritis recently launched in Mansehra District. Under this campaign the district health authorities have established three special centres for vaccination at Civil Hospital Phulra, basic health unit Lassen Nawab Sahib and at check-post of village Bhaki. Besides, a mobile team has also been deputed for vaccination in Tanaval Area. The health authorities have, however, categorically contradicted reports of deaths from this disease appearing in certain newspapers. According to them there has been no case at all of gastro-enteritis in the area during the last 10 days. As such, the question of any death on its account does not arise, they pointed out.--A.P.P. [Text] [Peshawar KHYBER MAIL in English 8 Sep 80 p 4]

C50: 5400

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

EPIDEMIOLOGY RESEARCH EFFORTS SCORE SUCCESSES

Beijing GUANGMING RIBAO in Chinese 3 Aug 80 p 1

(Text) The First National Epidemiological Conference of the Chinese Medical Society convened most recently in Harbin. Scientific research results in epidemiology were exchanged at the conference, important problems debated, and future development plans discussed.

As a field of preventive medicine and methodology, the scope of epidemiology is continuously being enlarged. At present from studying the genesis, development, control, and elimination of infectious diseases among groups of people, epidemiology has been extended to noninfectious diseases and diseases of unclarified genesis.

The delegates reviewed the outstanding accomplishments of public health and epidemic prevention work in China since the establishment of the nation. Many papers are devoted to more profound and newer studies on infectious diseases; others discuss many noninfectious diseases and diseases of unknown or unclarified origin, including cancer, cardiovascular diseases, malnutrition, diabetes, measures of medical therapy and prevention and their evaluation, etc. Some delegates believe that planned parenthood, population study, human genetics, health protection service, etc. may all be studied with epidemiological methods.

The conference summarized China's accomplishments in epidemiological research. Research works have developed from general survey and description of incidences of diseases to numerical analysis and clarification of the interrelationships of various epidemiological factors, from analyses of data of infectious diseases that have occurred to the prediction of epidemics of infectious diseases, from simple studies on infectious diseases to studies on esophageal cancer, gastric cancer, liver cancer, intestinal cancer, coronary disease, Keshan Disease, and Kashin-Beck Disease etc., from the observation and analysis of diseases to experimental epidemiology. The Atlas of Malignant Tumors in the People's Republic of China, compiled on the basis of survey data of fatalities due to malignant tumors in the entire country, has been published and has been acknowledged as important by foreign tumor epidemiologists. Application of electronic computers in epidemiological

statistics and the development and application of new seroimmunological diagnostic techniques have provided new weapons in epidemiological studies.

Specialists and workers of special subjects presented their various viewpoints at the conference on such subjects as the relationship between hepatitis and liver cancer, and drinking water and liver cancer, the pathogenesis of Keshan Disease, etc. in the spirit of academic democracy.

The Epidemiological Society Chinese Medical Society was established by the conference and Prof Su Delong [5685 1795 7127] was named the chief committee member.

6168

CSO: 5400

SOUTH KOREA

HEALTH AUTHORITIES ANNOUNCE CHOLERA OUTBREAK

In Southern Coastal Areas

SK190145 Seoul HAPTONG in English 0102 GMT 19 Sep 80

[Excerpt] Seoul, 19 Sep (HAPTONG)--The South Korean health authorities announced last night the outbreak of cholera in the southern coastal area with a total of 29 persons infected. They said two of the patients died.

The Health and Social Affairs Ministry placed the entire country under an emergency anti-cholera precaution, ordering health officials to take all necessary steps to prevent the further spread of the water-borne epidemic to other areas.

The ministry said the contagious disease first struck a small off-shore islet Kijawa-do in Shinan county, South Cholla Province, on 10 September, and rapidly spread to the neighbouring areas, including Mokpo, a port city on the southeast coast with population of more than 200,000.

The port city of Mokpo and its environs as well as Shinan county were declared a cholera-infected area.

The World Health Organization (WHO) was immediately informed of the cholera outbreak, the first in Korea since 1970 when the summer epidemic had infected 206 persons, killing a dozen of them.

Epidemic Spreads to Seoul

SK220824 Seoul HAPTONG in English 0811 GMT 22 Sep 80

[Text] Seoul, 22 Sep (HAPTONG)--The Health and Social Affairs Ministry today announced the spread of cholera epidemic to Seoul with four confirmed cases of contagious disease reported in an eastern residential district of the capital.

The ministry said there were two more cases of cholera outbreak reported in Sunchang county bordering on South Cholla Province where the first outbreak of the water-borne epidemic was reported last Thursday.

The latest outbreak brought to 35 the number of persons infected with cholera so far with two of them officially announced to have died.

The health authorities today declared the Chonnong-Dong district in Eastern Seoul and Sunchang county cholera-infected areas. The authorities put the areas under quarantine and ordered a compulsory inoculation of all the inhabitants there.

C80: 5400

TANZANIA

BRIEFS

ANTICHLERA MEETING--Singida--Thirty party and government leaders from Shinyanga, Tabora and Singida regions met in Singida today to discuss ways of fighting cholera which has erupted in the border areas of the three regions. So far there have been a total of 65 deaths from cholera in the three regions since the disease broke out in the country at the end of 1967 [as heard]. Out of these, 54 deaths were recorded in Singida region, 9 in Shinyanga and 2 in Tabora regions. The Singida regional medical officer told the meeting that at present 30 people were being treated for cholera at seven centers in the region. In Shinyanga region 10 suspects were undergoing treatment, while in Tabora there were no reported cases. [Text] [LD190130 Dar es Salaam in English to East Africa 1600 GMT 18 Sep 80 EA]

CSO: 5400

VIETNAM

RESULTS OF GIA LAI-KON TUM MALARIA ERADICATION CAMPAIGN REPORTED

Hanoi SUC KHOE in Vietnamese 20 Aug 80 p 6

[Article: "Gia Lai-Kon Tum Completes 1st Phase of 1980 Malaria Eradication Campaign"]

[Text] In 1980, Gia Lai-Kon Tum enters the 3rd year of its campaign to eradicate malaria throughout the province with additional impetus and high determination.

In recent years, the campaign has achieved good initial results due to the solicitous leadership of party committees and administrations at all echelons, the effort of the entire health branch as well as active and large popular participation. The number of malaria carriers and patients with enlarged spleen has clearly dropped: in 1977, the rates of disease-carrying patients and those with enlarged spleen were respectively 13.41 percent and 24.48 percent; in 1979, the corresponding figures were only 4.77 percent and 3.24 percent.

To intensify anti-malaria work, and reduce malaria incidence in compliance with the 1980 norms, Gia Lai-Kon Tum launched the 1st phase of the 1980 malaria eradication campaign from 1 March to 30 April 1980. That phase was conducted according to plan: DDT anti-mosquito spraying in more than 160 villages, providing protection for over 550,000 people; large scale prophylactic treatment for 476,124 people, including over 100,000 from new economic zones, work sites, state farms, state forests, enterprises, and armed units stationed in the province. Such districts as Chu Pa, Ayun Pa, and cities as Kon Tum and Krong Pa, have properly prepared for the drive, begun it early, and successfully completed it before the schedule.

To assess the fight against the malaria parasite, in the first six months of the year the health branch has examined both blood smears and malaria patients: of 25,813 blood smears 536 were infected, representing 2.07 percent; of 11,048 patients examined 128 had enlarged spleens, representing 1.15 percent. It should be noted that since the beginning of the year, concurrently with evaluation and detection in hospitals, a number of

districts and cities (including Chu Pa and An Khe Districts, and Kon Tum and Ayun Pa Cities) have properly begun a monthly blood screening campaign, now attaining 2 percent of the population. Encouraged by these achievements, Gia Lai-Kon Tum is striving to complete the 1980 malaria eradication plan, toward suppressing the scourge throughout the province, and making the Highlands increasingly richer and stronger.

9213

CSO: 5400

VIETNAM

DISTRICT IN THUAN HAI STRIVES TO ERADICATE MALARIA

Hanoi SUC KHOE in Vietnamese 20 Aug 80 p 7

[Article: "In Thuan Hai, Ham Tan District Strives to Practically Eradicate Malaria"]

[Text] Ham Tan District with 22 villages and nearly 119,000 inhabitants is in a malaria-infected area. Before liberation, the disease was devastating: high patient rate, frequent incidence of malaria epidemics in both delta and mountainous villages in 1975-1976.

In recent years, as a pilot center of a province-wide campaign to eradicate malaria, Ham Tan has achieved great results, considerably helping to reduce malaria incidence to the lowest level throughout the province, and making its own experiences available to provincial authorities in organizing and carrying out the malaria eradication plan.

Due to active technical measures taken annually during each campaign, and to epidemiological work, the scourge has abated significantly. No malaria epidemic has recurred. In Ham Tan hospital, the patient admission rate has consistently dropped; there has been a dramatic reduction in acute cases and mortality rates. In 1976, Ham Tan hospital treated 3,985 inpatients for malaria, 298 of whom were affected by malignant malaria, and 19 had died (0.4 percent). In 1979, there were only 594 inpatients, 17 acute cases, and 1 death (0.17 percent). Blood test screening in many villages in the district has shown that parasite concentration has considerably decreased: in 1976, the rate was 15.7 percent; in 1979, it had shrunk to 1.39 percent, and in the first 6 months of 1980 to 1.03 percent. Now, the parasite still holds out in a number of mountainous villages, including Ham Can, My Thanh, and Dong Giang, and in the Gia Le new economic zone; in other villages, malaria has considerably receded.

Ham Tan District has achieved great results in its 5-year-long malaria eradication campaign. In light of these results, the district has pledged to strive to eradicate malaria practically in the time to come.

9213

CSO: 5400

SHORTAGE OF CHOLERA, SMALLPOX VACCINES REPORTED

Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 12 Sep 80 p 7

[Article by Victor Mulangil]

[Text] People wishing to have cholera and smallpox vaccinations were turned away from Ndola council Broadway clinic yesterday because of an alleged shortage of doses.

The people, who included many expatriates, were told to buy their own drugs and bring them to the clinic to be vaccinated. A dose of cholera or smallpox vaccine costs more than K4 from local chemists.

Deputy town clerk, Mr Cyrus Kasimba said yesterday he was not aware of any shortage of the vaccine at the clinic.

As far as he was concerned, he expected the clinic to operate normally, he said.

Mr Kasimba said if the situation was to the contrary, he would have received a report from acting council chief health inspector Mr Richard Mwape.

Mr Mwape said he monitored the supplies through a daily report from the clinic supervisor who had informed him about the drug shortage and was convinced the clinic had run out of the vaccines.

A spokesman for the office of the Copperbelt provincial medical officer said he had 4,000 doses of cholera vaccines awaiting collection at his office and dismissed reports of any shortage of drugs in the province.

He wondered why the council waited until they had completely run out of vaccines and eventually inconvenienced people by turning them away.

The spokesman said it was not the duty of the provincial medical officer to remind local authorities about their public health requirements since the onus rested squarely on the councils concerned.

Broadway clinic is issuing duplicates of inside pages of international cholera and smallpox vaccination certificates because the original yellow books are not in stock.

CSO: 5400

MORE ANTHRAX DEATHS REPORTED

Salisbury THE HERALD in English 13 Sep 80 p 7

(Article by Des Parker)

(Text) THE Department of Veterinary Services has repeated a warning to people against handling and eating meat from animals that have died from unknown causes.

The Animal Provincial Veterinary Officer for Mashonaland, Dr Stuart Hargreaves, said the origins of most cases of the disease, anthrax, were traced through people in hospitals.

"When a case is diagnosed in hospital, the Ministry of Health traces where meat was consumed and my department goes to that area and annually vaccinates as many animals as possible.

"At least that was the case before the war, but inaccessibility of many areas rendered vaccination impossible and the disease has spread."

Dr Hargreaves said the department was now able to get back into rural areas, and facilities to vaccinate were being built under the reconstruction programme. These included pens for easier grouping of animals.

Anthrax was a bacterial disease which affected all animals, and though not

infectious or contagious, could easily be contracted by ingestion and to a lesser extent inhalation.

Cattle were highly susceptible to the disease, which, when exposed to the air, formed highly resistant spores known to survive in meat environments for more than 20 years, said Dr Hargreaves.

"The major factor in their transmission is infected meat. In many areas of this country animals die from anthrax and are cut up and the meat transported from one place to another for sale, thus spreading the disease."

Dr Hargreaves advised people not to open up animals that had died, but to take a blood sample to the Veterinary Department laboratories for analysis.

Once the disease was confirmed, the dead animal should be buried not less than 3 m deep with any traces from the ground where it fell. It could also be burnt. These precautions had to be taken because of the resistance of the spores.

Anthrax had been in Zimbabwe "for some time" — the first case was believed to have been in the Hhais district — but it had been easily controlled before the war.

"At the moment we are

busy vaccinating in the Murehwa TTL and when we finish on Monday we hope to have over 40 000.

"At the same time as our rabies vaccination programme for dogs in the Bobe area starts on September 23, we will also inject cattle with our very effective vaccine for anthrax," said Dr Hargreaves.

Chats TTL near Marandellas had also been covered.

He said the minimum wage now paid to workers whereby they did not receive rations, often resulted in them getting cheap meat from animals that had died from anthrax and taking the disease back to their home areas.

Although there had been only isolated occurrences of the disease involving single livestock deaths on commercial farms in Mashonaland, farmers with land bordering on tribal areas were urged to vaccinate annually.

The isolated incidents were at Rupitila, Bindura, Ruwa, and one this week in the Norton area.

DECLINE

Although anthrax was on the decline, there was still a significant number of cases and deaths in humans.

Of 750 reported cases in Mashonaland in the six

months ended June 30, there were nine deaths. The most affected province was the Midlands where 41 people died among 3,600 reported cases of the disease.

The Director of the Department of Veterinary Services Dr Alan Williams said letters had been sent to the directors of veterinary services in the nine states of the Southern Africa Co-ordination movement asking for replies on appropriate dates for meeting on foot-and-mouth disease control.

A communiqué on agreement reached after the one-day ministerial conference at the movement in Bulawayo on Thursday said Zimbabwe had been invited to observe a meeting of the directors "in the near future".

CSO: S400

BRIEFS

MEASLES EMERGENCY--Bulawayo--The closure of mobile baby clinics during the war has vastly increased the death rate from the measles epidemic sweeping south-west Matabeleland. The provincial Medical Officer of Health, Dr Allen Pugh, warned yesterday the outbreak would continue to spread there. "We haven't been able to re-establish our mobile baby clinics for immunisation quickly enough since the war to avert this particular outbreak. But I hope this will be the last major outbreak," he said. "In a measles outbreak of this kind, there are unfortunately quite a few deaths among children who have not been immunised, especially those suffering from mal-nutrition." Dr Pugh said it would be well into next year before the immunisation clinics had visited all the country areas. Where clinics had not yet been set up, the epidemic would continue to spread. The mobile clinics ceased operating about three years ago, so babies born during that period had been given no immunisation of any kind. An extra clinic in the south-west area is being started at the end of this month by the Save the Children Fund, working with the Salvation Army and with Dr Pugh's staff. [Text] [Salisbury THE HERALD in English 13 Sep 80 p 3]

CSO: 3400

EDITORIAL CALLS FOR MORE SUCCESSFUL STRUGGLE AGAINST PARASITES

Sofia VETERINARNA SRIRKA in Bulgarian No 7, 1980 pp 3-5

[Editorial: "Greater Attention to the Struggle Against Parasites"]

[Text] Parasites play an important role in the pathology of farm and other animals useful to man. Their settling and development in the bodies of animals is the reason for severe illnesses (frequently lethal), for the development of allergies and reaction changes, and severe productivity decline. Every year animal husbandry throughout the world suffers losses from parasite invasions amounting to about \$150 billion. Parasites are a major hindrance to the full realization of the genetically determined productivity of farm animal herds. Frequently animals could be the sources of severe human invasions. For this reason, the struggle against them is closely linked with important problems to mankind such as insuring population nutrition from animal origin, elimination of protein shortage, protecting the health of the people, and maintaining the environmental balance.

In the past our animal husbandry suffered severe losses from parasite invasions. The development of a socialist organization of animal husbandry created possibilities for a more successful struggle against them. Thanks to the efforts of veterinary specialists, helped by the animal husbandrymen, the managers of agricultural organizations, the state organs, and the public, unquestionable successes were achieved in this direction. The agents of parasitical diseases in the livestock in the country were found. The spreading and cases of fasciolants dictyocaulosis, mange, pyroplasmidoses, and others has been limited and the number of cases has been reduced. The percentage of invasions of echinococcus and the larvae of other kinocestodes has been reduced. Cattle hypoderma has been eliminated in a number of areas. Cases of trichinellosis or hog and cattle cysticercosis are rarely found in the meat of butchered animals.

Despite these successes, parasitical invasions are still causing considerable damages, particularly in the consolidated and industrial livestock farms. The spreading of subclinical forms is quite extensive. Yet, it is precisely they that play a predominant role in lowering cattle productivity. This is confirmed also by studies conducted by some veterinary

specialists in Bulgaria as well. It is no accident that in all developing countries and at the 21st World Veterinary Congress in Moscow attention was focused on subclinical parasitical invasions. The main objective at the present stage, as well as in the future, is not only to treat the sick animals and reduce the mortality rate, but to lower the invasion to an extent which will not adversely affect animal productivity.

Individual scientific and applied science problems closely related to the effectiveness of the struggle against parasites have not been adequately clarified. No detailed study has been made of the ecology of the number of parasites important in terms of veterinary medicine, with a view to determining the natural factors--biotic and abiotic--which restrict their growth. We know from partial studies conducted in our country as well that some animals (vertebrates and invertebrates, including parasites) destroy some parasites, for which reason they could be used as biological instruments in the struggle against the latter. This would reduce the use of insecticides, acaricides, moluscocides, and other chemicals which are expensive and which disturb the ecological balance. Insufficient work is being done to apply new tests and methods for early ethioparhogenic diagnosis so that the antiparasite treatment of animals may terminate the development of the invasionary and pathogenic processes at the very beginning. Insufficient studies are conducted on the development and fast application of new broad spectrum antiparasitical means with selective and effective action on parasites and on the conditions and mechanisms governing the development of the resistance of the parasites to anti-parasite chemicals. The problem of the effective and economically profitable sanitizing of fecal masses and sewage waters in the big farms has not been resolved. The possibilities for the effective utilization of immunoprophylaxis with the extensive dissemination of parasitical invasions have not been adequately clarified, nor has the range of indicators for an overall assessment of economic losses and the effectiveness of antiparasite measures. Such problems must be given priority in the formulation of scientific research plans in parasitology for the next five-year plan.

Wherever antiparasite measures have been systematically and properly implemented, in accordance with the specific development of invasions and technological requirements governing livestock breeding, good results have been achieved. In 1979 mortality caused by pyroplasmidoses throughout the country was reduced. As a result of the systematic and proper application of coccidiostaticides in fodder mixes, the level of invasions and mortality have remained low at the Burgas Poultry Farm, and good economic effectiveness was achieved. The situation of the poultry farms in Mikhaylovgrad, Vratsa, Razgrad, and others, has become entirely different. Here coccidial invasions and mortality caused by coccidiosis have been high and the losses severe as a result of violations of poultry-raising technology. Yet, the respective fodder plants have not supplied fodder with the necessary admixtures of coccidiostaticides. Some fodder plants frequently release mixes without the necessary coccidiostaticides

or other medical admixtures. About 35 percent of the fodder samples studied in 1979 contained coccidiostaticides lesser than the necessary amount, while some of them contained none at all. This is a violation of the strict order issued by the chairman of the National Agroindustrial Union on the struggle against poultry coccidiosis.

In recent years, there has been an increase in invasion by trematodes in many parts of the country. This has been due to neglecting measures to sanitize the biotopes. No significant success could be expected in the struggle against parasitoses in okrugs such as Lovech, Pazardzhik, Mikhaylovgrad, and Vratsa where measures for sanitizing the environment were not carried out in 1979. There were also cases of formal implementation of antiparasite measures which were not carried out at most suitable times and without control and assessment of results.

The struggle against parasites and parasitic invasions is a difficult one. Real and lasting successes may be achieved only as the result of the lengthy, systematic, and strict application of a set of measures which will reduce the size of parasite populations in our country. Reduction of such numbers should be the main objective in organizing and pursuing the antiparasite struggle, for this is the only way largely to restrict the harmful influence of parasites not only on the health but the productivity of the animals. A clear idea of the main objective is a very important prerequisite for properly directing the organization of the struggle against parasites. However, this alone is insufficient. In addition to a systemic, accurate, and comprehensive approach, lasting antiparasite results and high economic effectiveness require prophylactic antiparasite measures to be combined and, whenever possible, to be included in animal breeding technology.

The development of parasites in the environment and the animals, and the other aspects of the epizootiology of parasitical invasions must be clarified on a specific basis, by season and year for each farm (rayon) so that antiparasite measures may be implemented when they would yield the greatest possible results in lowering the number of parasites and protecting both the animals and the environment against invasions. Particular attention should be paid to privately owned animals.

A rapid diagnosis of parasitical invasions must be provided with a view to interrupting their development and pathogenic process.

The veterinary services and livestock farms must be regularly supplied with effective antiparasitical means which must be used in such a way as to prevent development of parasite resistance to them.

Natural factors must be used to reduce the size of parasite populations.

The high resistance of the animals to parasitical invasions must be maintained through proper feeding and immunoprophylaxis.

The results of antiparasitical measures must be systematically supervised and assessed.

Livestock breeders, and managements of livestock farms and agroindustrial complexes, obshchina and okrug people's councils, and public organizations must be involved in the struggle against parasites. The organization and direction of this struggle is the professional and social obligation of the veterinary specialist. Experience in the struggle with echinococcus indicates that significant results may be achieved with the help of extensive public support (Shumen and other okrugs).

The struggle against parasites is truly difficult. However, it is socially necessary and noble. The veterinary specialist contributes to the struggle against parasites not only to increasing the number of useful animals and obtaining more livestock products, but to protecting the population from severe parasitical invasions and maintaining the ecological balance.

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CHILE

BRIEFS

HOG CHOLERA OUTBREAK--Some 6,000 hogs are in danger of contracting hog cholera "Clasiva" in Coquimbo Province, if the breeders do not take timely, preventative measures. The presence of the virus which causes fever in hogs, was detected by professionals of the Agricultural and Livestock Service (SAG) of the Ministry of Agriculture after confirming the death of some 10 specimens belonging to different hog breeders. The chief of the Department of Agriculture and Livestock Protection, Dr Ricardo Pineda Navarro, reported that the SAG had taken the necessary measures to prevent the spread of this epizootic disease. Hogs which do not have proper vaccination certificates are not being accepted at the hog markets. Along with the technical measures, the SAG has given the owners some general rules on feeding of the animals, cleanliness of hog pens, introduction of strange hogs onto the farm, as well as maintaining reliable records of vaccination of the animals. [Text] [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 9 Sep 80 p D-16]

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GUINEA-BISSAU

BRIEFS

AFRICAN SWINE FEVER OUTBREAK DENIED--An alleged outbreak of African swine fever in Bissau did not actually take place, according to information provided by Dr Mandinga, a veterinarian, who added that in reality, most of the hogs in the interior of the country are generally affected by the virus provoking this disease and during the rainy period, they become more sensitive to its evolution. However, this is not dangerous for humans, since swine fever does not affect them. During an epidemic, nevertheless, affected animals must not be slaughtered for consumption, but should be buried or burned. [Text] [Bissau NO PINTCHA in Portuguese 30 Aug 80 p 1]

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INDIA

BRIEFS

DEATH OF LIVESTOCK--Madurai, July 16--Over 500 head of cattle and sheep have died of a mystery disease in Tiruppathur taluk of Rannad district during the past 15 days. According to the villagers, the animals shiver and froth before falling dead. They also say veterinary hospitals are helpless as there is no medicine available to cure the animals. The villages affected by the disease are: Karuppur, Nattarmangalam, Thani-patti and Kotai Irruppur. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 17 Jul 80 p 9]

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BRIEFS

PHON HONG FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE--In the first 6 months of 1980 the Veterinary Department of [Meuang] Phon Hong District, Vientiane Province, arranged for [teams] to go out to care for the animals of the people of this locality. They took special care to assure sufficient draft animal strength for this year's production season. During this period they gave injections for foot-and-mouth disease and blisters to more than 550 cattle, buffalo, and goats. They cared for 400 cattle, buffalo, and swine which were recovering. During this period the number of domestic animals of the people of this district increased appropriately, and now there are 7819 cattle and buffalo and 2717 swine. This increase is the result of the attention paid to limiting the slaughter of certain animals such as pregnant mothers and animals which could still be used for draft purposes. And they also practiced scientific methods of animal husbandry recommended by the Department of Agriculture of the province and district as well as the District Veterinary Department. [Text] Vientiane SIANG PASASON in Lao 16 Jul 80 p 1] 8149

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NIGERIA

NEED FOR VACCINES FOR ANIMAL HEALTH EXPRESSED

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 27 Aug 80 p 7

[Text]

SUFFICIENT meat in the country depends largely on the efforts made by the governments to provide cattle Fulani with proper vaccines and drugs for their animals.

This was the view of Malam Isyaku Sambo while contributing to a motion tabled before the Kaduna State House of Assembly calling on the state Ministry of Animal and Forest Resources to provide vaccines and drugs for curing animal diseases.

The motion was sponsored by Alhaji Ibrahim Mu'azu (Batsari West). Malam Isyaku Sambo noted that cattle died due to lack of effective vaccines to cure them of animal diseases.

Alhaji Sani Sambo, Alhaji Yusi Teja, Alhaji Abba Kalle and Alhaji Sani Maitumbin Kudi said people indiscriminately destroyed forest reserves where cattle Fulani used for cattle grazing.

They contended that because of this action, cattle Fulani had to travel for long distances to find suitable grazing fields. They said this prompted some of them to find suitable grazing fields elsewhere.

Mr. Kure Malam suggested that the motion should be changed to calling on the state government to ensure that the officials of the Ministry of Animal and Forest Resources promptly gave vaccines and drugs to cattle. But it was resolved that the motion should be left as it was presented.

The House also called on the Ministry to expand forest reserves throughout the state so that domestic animals would have pasturing grounds for the benefit of the cattle Fulani.

The motion was passed together with the one calling on the Federal Government to construct a by-pass around Katsina starting from the Katsina Oil Mill to join the Dubin-Ma Road and end at Kofar Yandaka, a distance of about three kilometres.

It was sponsored by Alhaji Abba Zubairu (Katsina South West).

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PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

AGRICULTURE MINISTRY ISSUES CIRCULAR ON CONTROLLING INSECTS

OW250033 Beijing Domestic Service in Mandarin 1200 GMT 22 Aug 80

[Text] The Ministry of Agriculture recently issued an important circular on strengthening efforts to prevent the outbreak of rice leafhoppers, leaf borers and pink cotton boll worms.

The circular says: According to weather reports, high temperatures in May and moderate summer weather this July have been most favorable to an outbreak of rice leafhoppers and leaf borers. As thinning work is being carried out earlier on a large portion of cotton fields in the Chang Jiang valley, a second-generation of pink cotton boll worms can easily develop on these fields. In view of the current situation, there will be a serious outbreak of pink cotton boll worms later this year.

The circular points out: As the season for an outbreak of various insect pests is now here, now is the time to take measures to control their spread. Localities concerned must work out plans to effectively control insect pests, make accurate and timely short-term forecasts, organize teams specialized in preventing plant diseases, and do a good job in preventing insect pests in order to win a bumper harvest of rice and cotton this year.

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